



LORI WILLIAMS

Michael E. DeBakey, M.D. Congressional Gold Medal

Each Congressional Gold Medal is individually designed to reflect the accomplishments of the recipient.

The public law also authorizes the United States Mint to produce and sell bronze reproductions of the medal.



FRONT

The front features DeBakey in full scrubs with a surgery in the background and the inscriptions "Michael E. DeBakey, M.D." and "Act of Congress 2007."



BACK

The reverse features an anatomical heart placed prominently over a globe, representing DeBakey's teachings on cardiovascular procedures to surgeons around the world. The heart is encircled by a ribbon with the inscription, "The Pursuit of Excellence Has Been My Objective in Life," a quote by DeBakey.



DeBakey takes the Gold

In a historical setting during an elaborate ceremony that included the President of the United States and the top leaders of Congress, Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., graciously accepted the highest honor a citizen can receive.

After receiving the Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush and the leadership of the U.S. House and Senate, Dr. DeBakey turned to the crowd gathered in the Capitol Rotunda to offer his appreciation for the award and for the presence of many colleagues who traveled from Houston for the event.

He spoke of the values his parents instilled in him as a child, the love of education that would propel him to be a pioneering heart surgeon and world renowned educator and the importance of helping others that would serve as the focus of his compassion in taking care of patients.

And in classic style, he took the opportunity to offer some suggestions to


Congress about health care and to thank lawmakers for supporting medical research.

Dr. DeBakey is the 146th person to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. The award required signatures from individual members of both sides of Congress, a challenging task that was led by U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and U.S. Rep. Al Green.

President Bush noted that the medal has been awarded sparingly throughout history.

"The recipients of this medal who have come from the world of science are few, but they are iconic—they include Thomas Edison, Walter Reed and Jonas Salk. Today we gather to recognize that Michael DeBakey's name belongs among them," he said.

Baylor College of Medicine President Peter G. Traber, M.D., led a contingent of BCM officials and faculty members to support the College's founding president and most famous faculty member.

"Since receiving this award, my cup runneth over," DeBakey said. 



CONGRATULATIONS ON CAPITOL HILL

The dignitaries celebrating with Michael DeBakey, M.D., included U.S. Rep. Al Green (top left), U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (top right), BCM President Peter G. Traber, M.D., Sen. Hutchison, and BCM Board Chair Bob Allen.

